



University of Connecticut
Office of the Provost

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Testimony

By

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Higher Education and Workforce Advancement Committee Public Hearing

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Co-Chairs, Ranking Members and Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony on Senate Bill 136, An Act Concerning New and Revised Programs of Non-Profit Independent Institutions of Higher Education.

The University is concerned about this legislation which would exempt Connecticut non-profit independent institutions of higher education from having new and revised academic programs reviewed and approved by the Department of Higher Education. If we accept that DHE oversight and approval of academic programming serves the public interest by ensuring that minimal standards of quality and currency are met, then these considerations surely apply to programming in both the public and the private sector. We believe that the current DHE process is fair to all sectors of Connecticut's higher education system and should not be changed. This process allows all institutions to be aware of new programs as they undergo review and provides a level playing field for every college and university in Connecticut. If non-profit independent institutions are exempted, those institutions could begin offering programs immediately while public institutions would have to undergo the DHE review and approval process which takes 3-6 months.

We encourage the Committee to keep the current DHE review and approval process in place to ensure that Connecticut's public colleges and universities are not at a competitive disadvantage.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support of the University of Connecticut.

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